

AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified DNA encoding an infectious GBV-C, wherein the DNA comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~encodes~~ an amino acid sequence that is at least 99% ~~70%~~ identical to SEQ ID NO:2.
- 2.-3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the DNA ~~molecule~~ is about 9.4 kilobases in length.
5. (currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the DNA ~~molecule~~ comprises SEQ ID NO:1.
6. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid sequence.
7. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide.
8. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the polypeptide is a mammalian polypeptide.
9. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous promoter.
10. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein the heterologous promoter promotes transcription in a prokaryote.

11. (original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein the promoter is T7, T3, or Sp6.

12.-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~encodes~~ an amino acid sequence that is ~~at least~~ 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

64. (cancelled)

65. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises 500 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

66. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 65, wherein the DNA comprises 1000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

67. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 66, wherein the DNA comprises 2000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

68. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 67, wherein the DNA comprises 5000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

69. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises a 3' ntr or a 5' ntr of GBV-C.

70. (previously presented) The isolated and purified DNA of claim 69, wherein the DNA comprises a 3' ntr and a 5' ntr of GBV-C.

71. (new) An isolated and purified DNA encoding GBV-C, wherein the DNA comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.